



# Tales of Durga

Vol. 514 Rs. 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India





# Tales of Durga

Goddess Durga is as widely worshipped as Vishnu and Shiva. She is the fierce form of Devi who, as Shakti, is considered the personification of universal energy. According to the Devi Bhagavata the Universe is but Her manifestation – and even Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva worship Her. Durga is worshipped in sixty-four forms as Ambika, Kali, Chamundi, Devi, Uma, etc.

The worship of Durga is supposed to be more than 4,000 years old in India. The names of Uma and Parvati occur in the Taittiriya Aranyaka and the Kena Upanishad. Some Indologists are of the opinion that the figure seated on a lion in the coins of Ases I, the Shaka ruler (c. 5 B.C. to A.D. 30), represents Ambika or Durga.

Durga is worshipped in one form or another in almost every Indian village.

This Amar Chitra Katha is based on the Durga-Saptashati of the Markandeya Purana.



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# DURGA - THE SLAYER OF MAHISHA



THE ASURA, MAHISHA, ONCE PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCES TO PROPITIATE BRAHMA. PLEASED WITH HIS AUSTERITIES, BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.



LORD,  
MAKE ME  
IMMORTAL.

ALL WHO ARE  
BORN MUST DIE.  
YOU CANNOT  
ESCAPE DEATH.

MAHISHA BECAME DOUBTFUL.

WHAT SHALL I  
DO? HAVE I PERFORMED  
ALL THOSE  
PENANCES FOR  
NOTHING? AH!  
I HAVE IT!



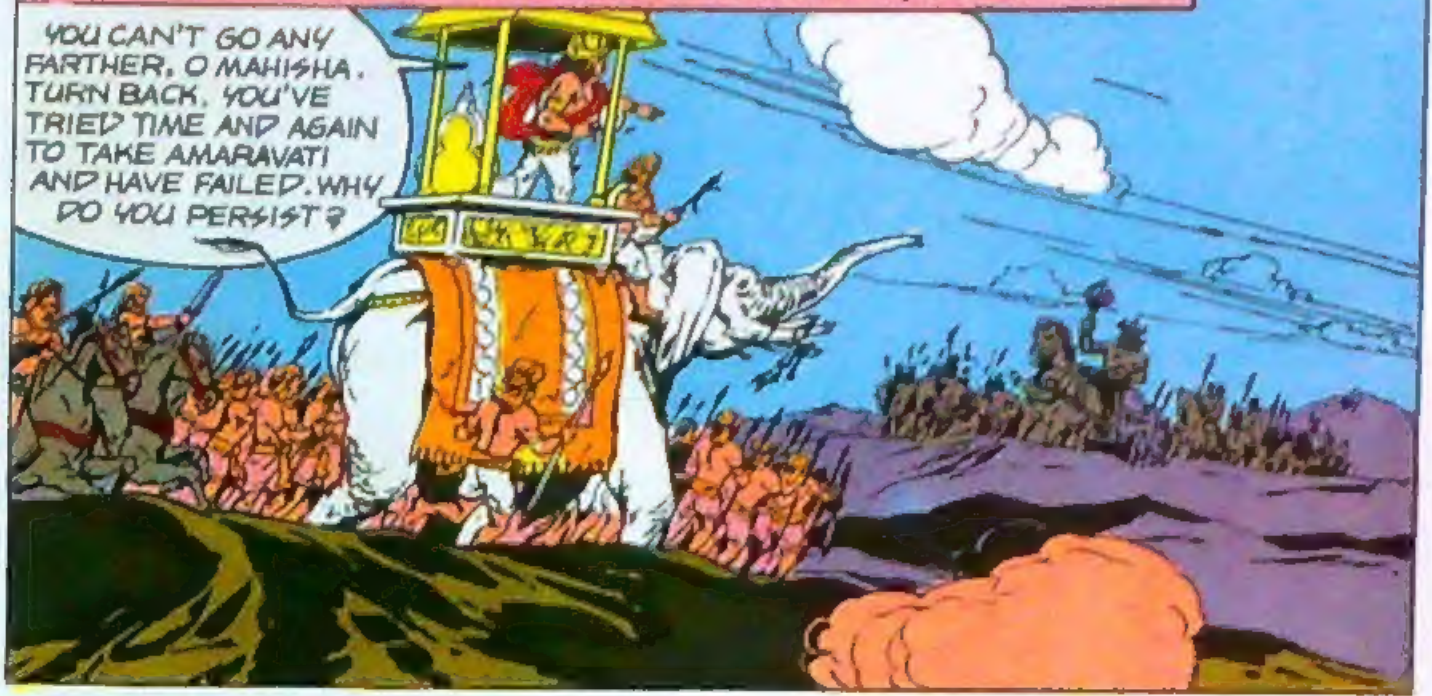






A LITTLE LATER, INDRA RUSHED OUT OF AMARAVATI, HIS CAPITAL.

YOU CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER, O MAHISHA. TURN BACK. YOU'VE TRIED TIME AND AGAIN TO TAKE AMARAVATI AND HAVE FAILED. WHY DO YOU PERSIST?



INDRA, I'VE COME TO FIGHT, NOT TO TALK. USE YOUR WEAPONS INSTEAD OF YOUR TONGUE!



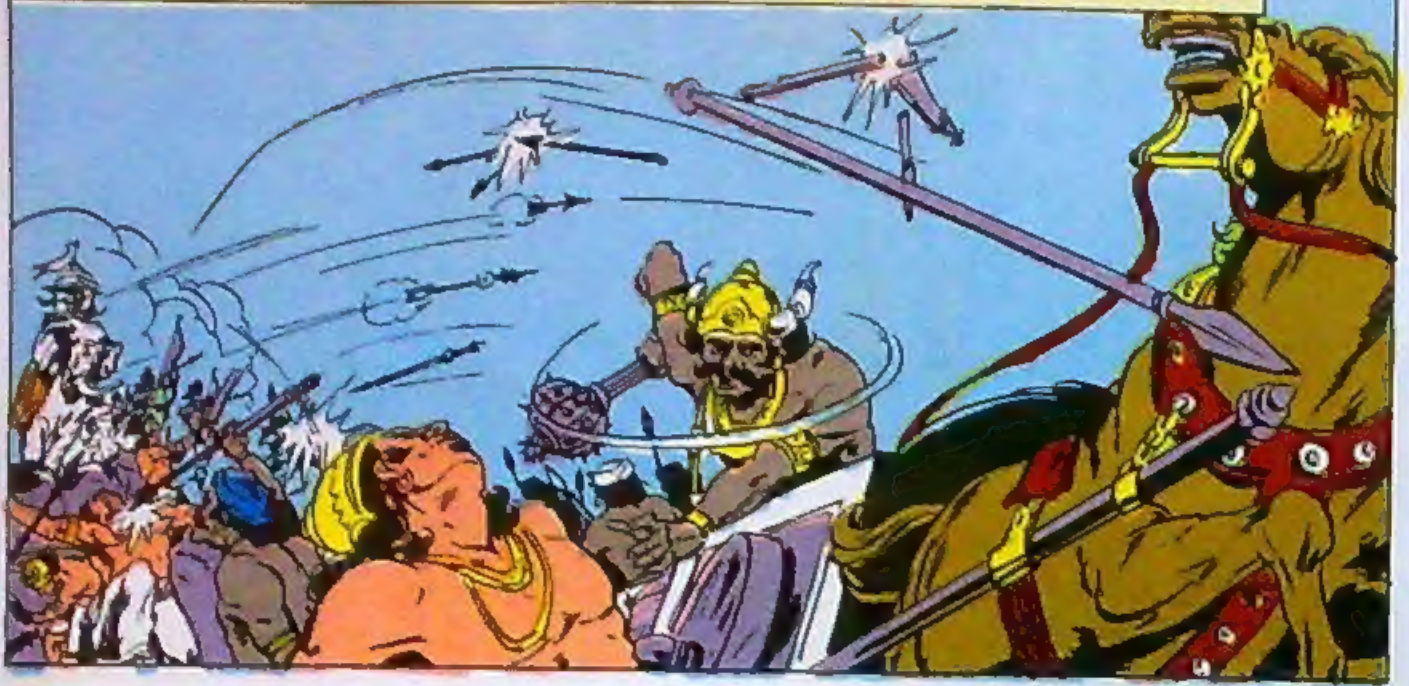
STUNG BY MAHISHA'S WORDS, INDRA DARTED FORWARD BRANDISHING HIS WEAPON — THE THUNDERBOLT.

ATTACK, O DEVAS, LET NO ASURA ESCAPE.





THEN ENSUED A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS.



SEVERELY BEATEN, THE DEVAS HAD TO RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.



AFTER DRIVING THE DEVAS OUT OF AMARAVATI, MAHISHA ASCENDED INDRA'S THRONE.

I AM THE LORD OF LORDS.  
HENCEFORTH I ALONE SHALL  
BE WORSHIPPED. THE WOR-  
SHIP OF BRAHMA, VISHNU  
AND SHIVA SHOULD BE  
STOPPED FORTHWITH.





MAHISHA'S MEN BEGAN TO HARASS THOSE PIOUS MEN WHO CONTINUED TO WORSHIP VISHNU OR SHIVA.



\* A FORM IN WHICH SHIVA IS WORSHIPPED



MEANWHILE, UNKNOWN TO THEM, THE DEVAS HAD ALREADY ASSEMBLED AT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF LORD SHIVA.

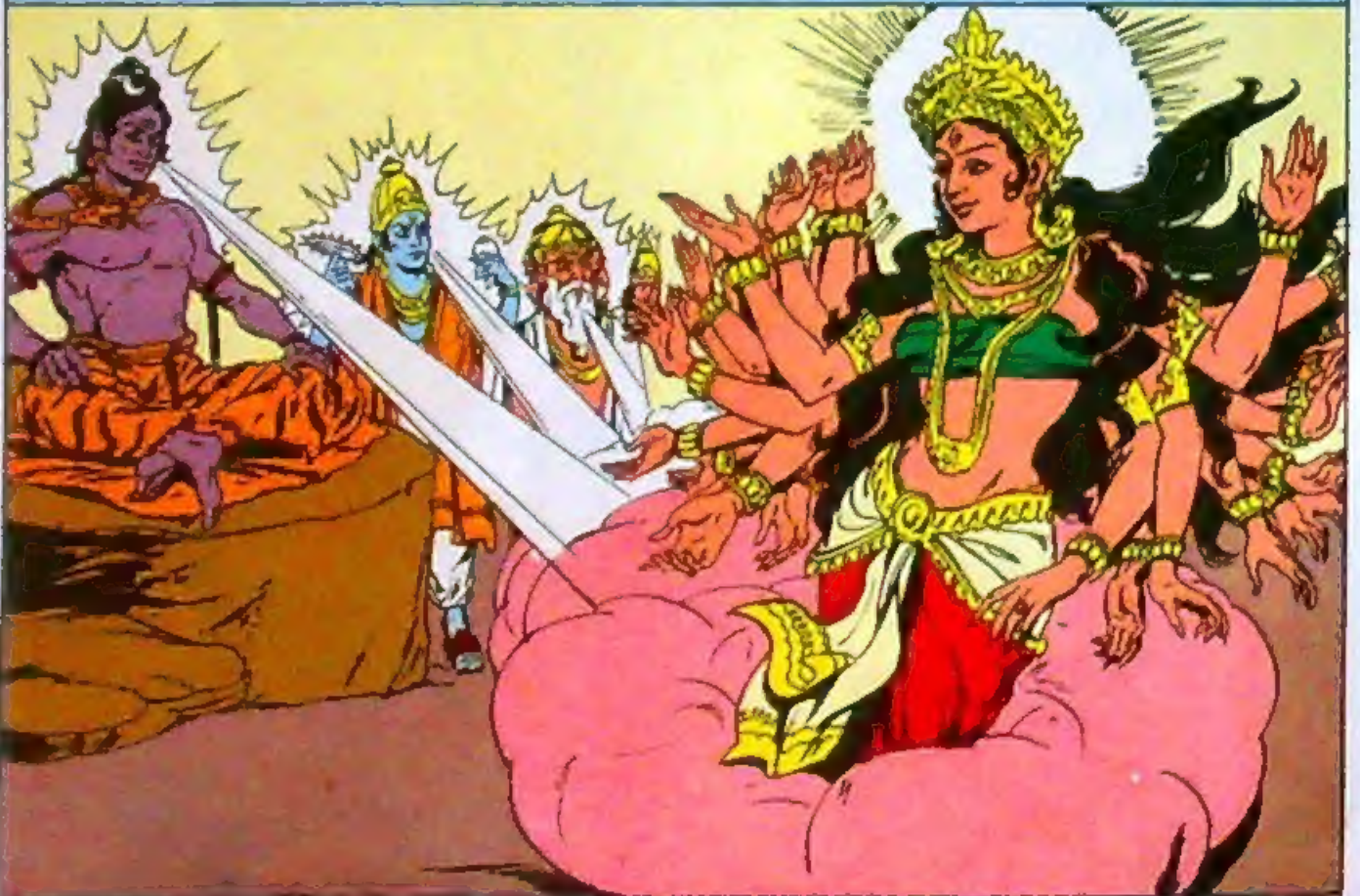
WE ARE HELPLESS AGAINST MAHISHA. WILL EVIL TRIUMPH OVER RIGHT-EOUSNESS?



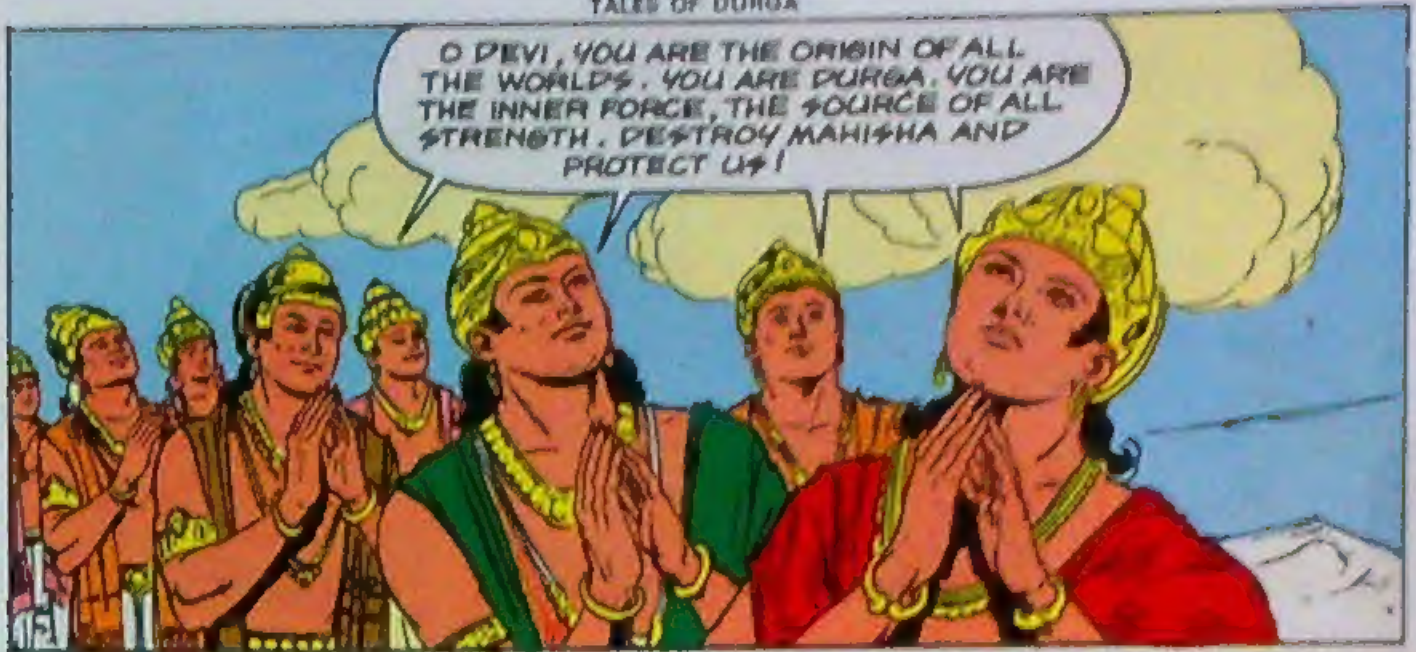
EVEN AS THE DEVAS SPOKE, AN INTENSE LIGHT ISSUED FORTH FROM THE ENRAGED FACES OF SHIVA, VISHNU AND BRAHMA.



IT WAS JOINED BY SIMILAR RAYS OF LIGHT FROM INDRA AND OTHER DEVAS. AND LO! THE NEXT MOMENT, OUT OF THAT LIGHT A FEMALE FORM WITH A THOUSAND ARMS CAME INTO BEING! IT WAS DEVI DURGA.





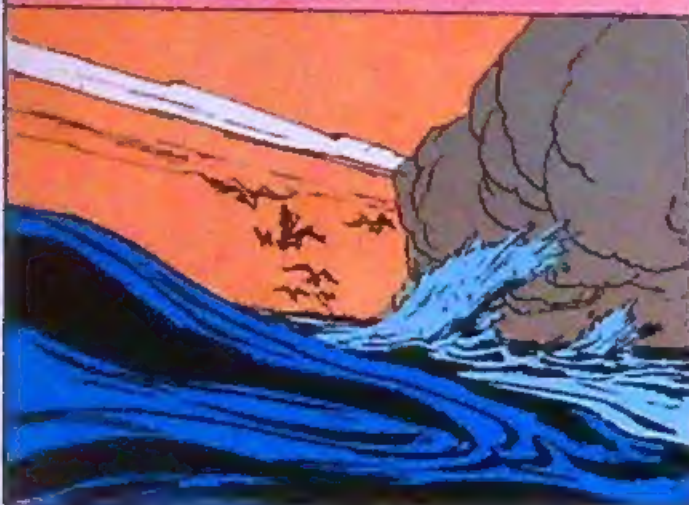




ARMED WITH THE CELESTIAL WEAPONS AND MOUNTED ON A LION, DURGA EMITTED A BLOOD-CURLING ROAR.



THE SEAS TREMBLED...



...THE EARTH SHOOK AND THE MOUNTAINS ROCKED.



MAHISHA'S HEART MISSED A BEAT.





HE RUSHED OUT OF HIS PALACE TO FIND OUT.



NO! I AM NO MERE FEMALE! I HAVE COME TO FULFIL BRAHMA'S BOON. YOU WANTED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF A WOMAN, DIDN'T YOU?



MAHISHA HASTILY STEPPED BACK AND CALLED TO HIS MEN.





AS THE ASIRAS HURLED VARIOUS WEAPONS AT HER, DURGA BREATHED HARD.



AS SHE BREATHED, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS CAME INTO BEING AND FOUGHT AT HER SIDE.



HER MOUNT STRODE THROUGH MAHISHA'S ARMY, DESTROYING THOUSANDS OF ASIRAS.



MAHISHA SEETHED WITH FURY.

I'LL  
ANNIHILATE  
THIS MONSTER  
AND HER  
HORDES.





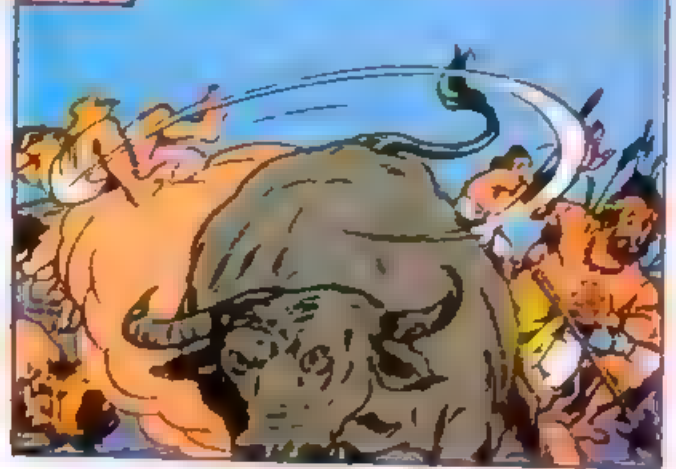
ASSUMING THE FORM OF A BUFFALO, MAHISHA CHARGED FORTH SNORTING AND BELLOWING.



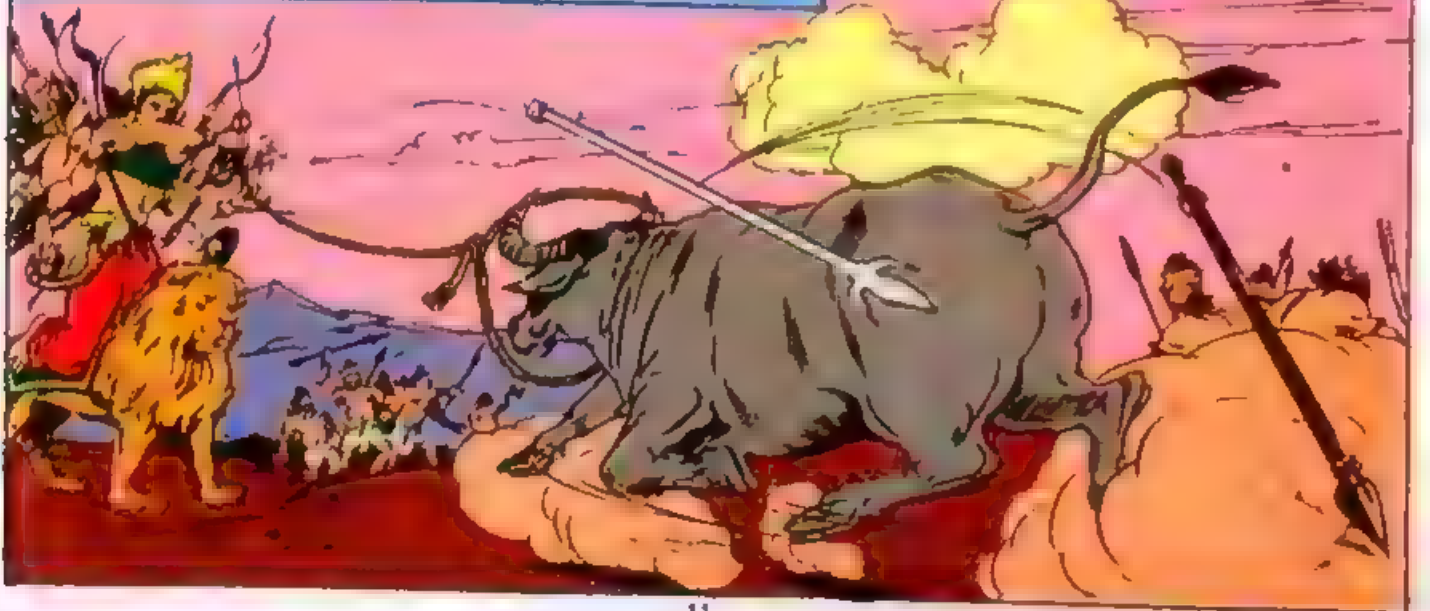
HE TRAMPLED UPON DURGA'S MEN...



... AND LASHED AT THEM WITH HIS TAIL.



ENRAGED, DURGA FLUNG A NOOSE AT HIM.





MANISHA WOUND HIMSELF WITH  
A HOT IRON ...



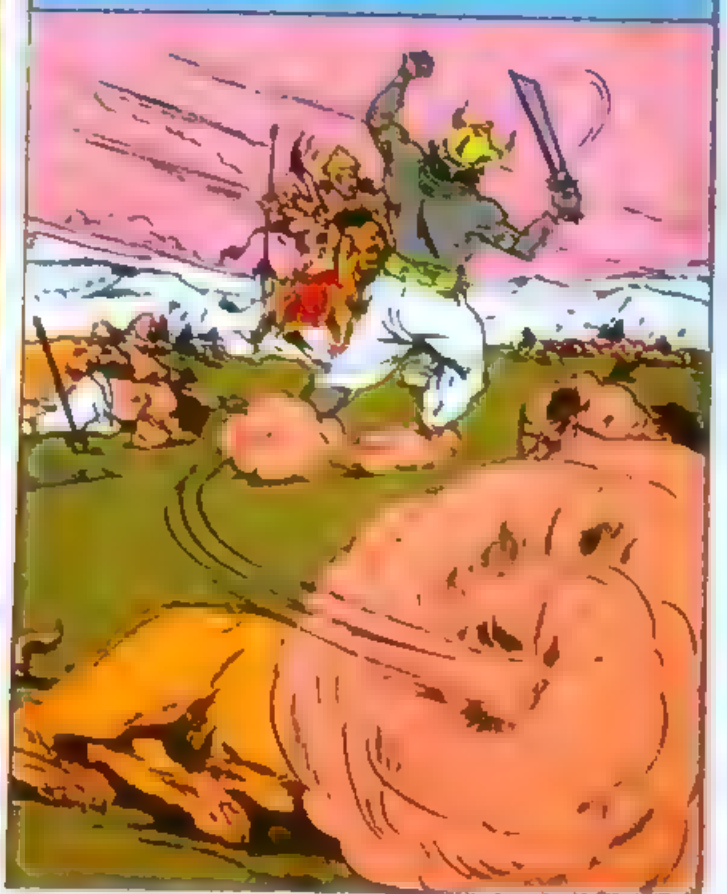
TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A  
LION AND POUNCED UPON DURGA.



AS DURGA CHOPPED OFF THE  
HEAD OF THE LION ...



... MANISHA ROSE IN HIS OWN  
FORM AND CHARGED.





LATER HE RECOVERED THE CORN OF AN ELEPHANT AND THROAT AT RUMOR  
MOUNTAIN WITH HIS TRUNK



RURGA LOOKED OFF THE TRUNK WITH  
HER EYES



HAN'ANA AGAIN RECOVERED THE CORN  
OF A BUFFALO AND EATEN IT IN  
RAGE



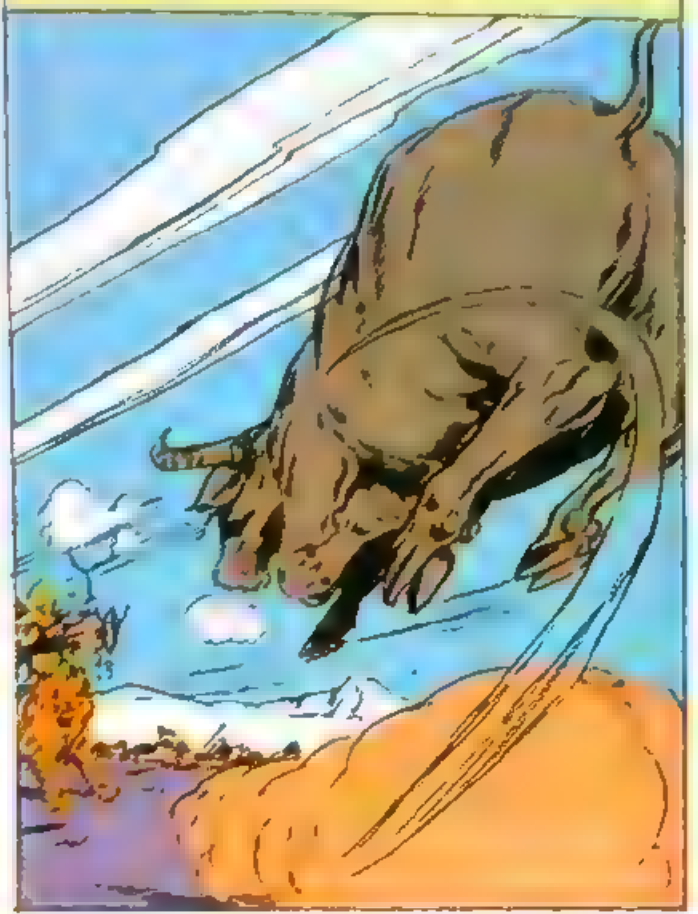


DURGA LOOKED AT HIM WITH CONTEMPT.

SNORT,  
O FOOL! IN A  
MOMENT, THE  
DEVAS WILL  
ROAR IN TRIUMPH  
AT THIS VERY  
PLACE, WHEN  
YOU ARE  
SLAIN!



ENRAGED, MAHISHA RUSHED AT HER.



BUT DURGA LEAPT UPON HIM AND PINNED HIM DOWN.





MAHISHA STRUGGLED TO FREE HIMSELF, AS HALF OF HIM EMERGED FROM THE MOUTH OF THE BUFFALO, DURGHA RAISED HER SWORD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, MAHISHA FELL DEAD, AT THE FOOT OF DURGHA THE DEVAS WERE OVERJOYED.





# CHAMUNDI



ON ANOTHER OCCASION, THE DEVAS WERE DRIVEN OUT OF HEAVEN BY SHUMBHA, THE LORD OF THE ASURAS.

CHANDRA AND MUNDA, SHUMBHA'S COMMANDERS, FOLLOWED THE DEVAS

LET'S FIND OUT WHERE THEY GO AND WHY

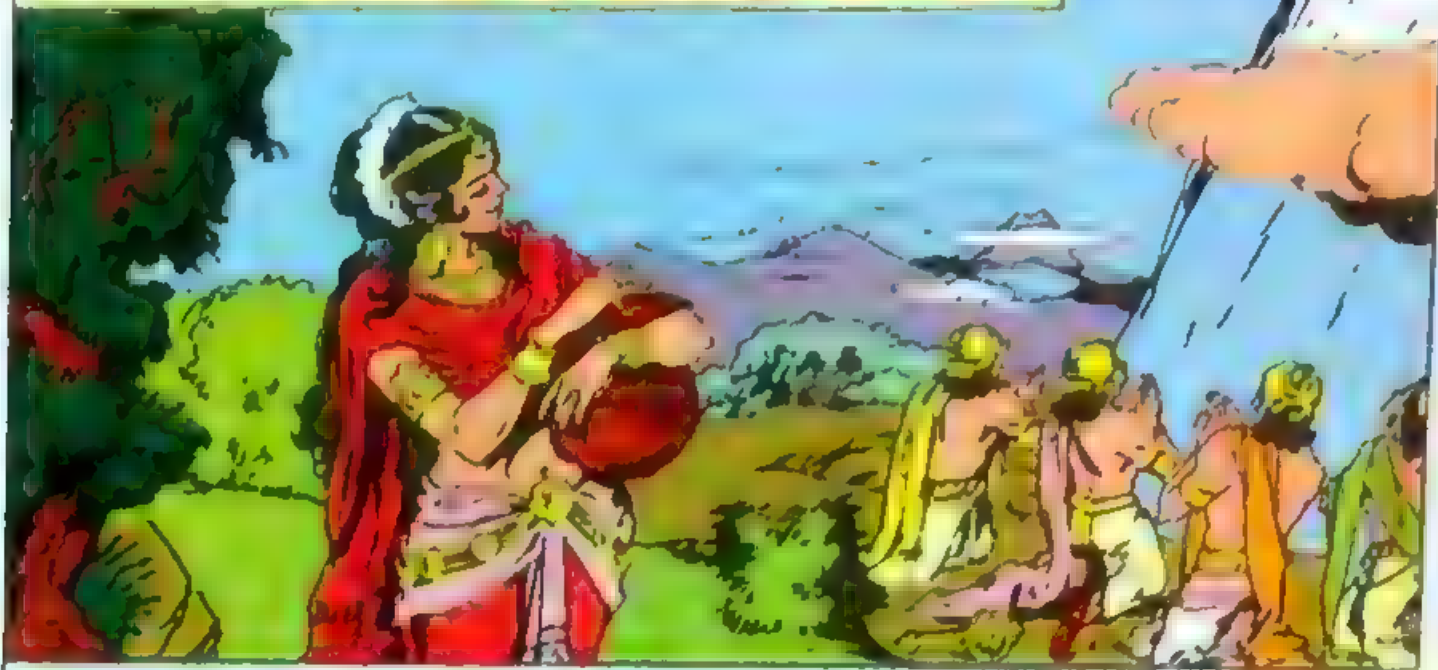
THE DEVAS WENT TO MOUNT HIMAYAT AND PRAYED TO DURGA.

O DURGA, PROTECTOR OF THE VIRTUOUS, DESTROY THE EVIL SHUMBHA AND RESTORE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

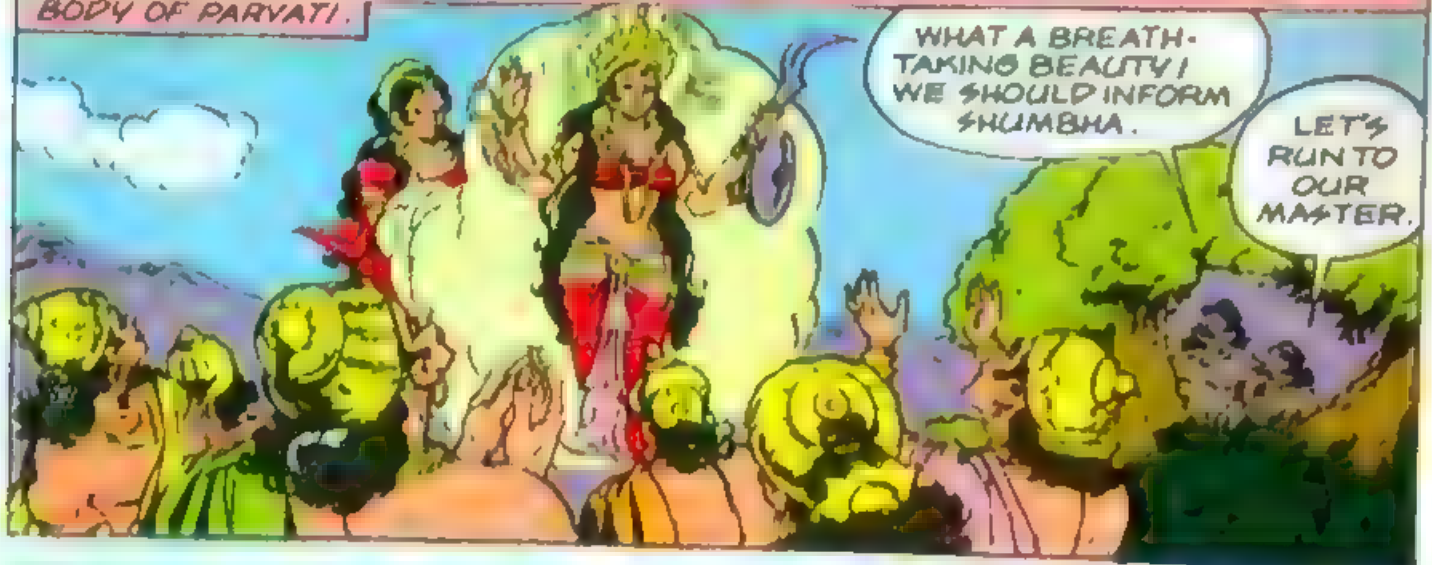




JUST THEN PARVATI, SHIVA'S CONSORT, WHO WAS ON HER WAY TO THE RIVER, HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



AND LO! THE NEXT MOMENT, GODDESS AMBIKA SPRANG FORTH FROM THE BODY OF PARVATI.



WHEN CHANDA AND MUNDA RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF SHUMBHA AND DESCRIBED AMBIKA TO HIM.









WHEN CHANTIA AND MUNDA CONVEYED  
AMBIKA'S MESSAGE TO HUMMHA --

IF IT'S BATTLE  
SHE WANTS,  
SHE SHALL  
HAVE IT.

THEN HE TURNED TO ANOTHER OF  
HIS COMMANDERS, DHUMRALOCHANA.

GO, AND  
BRING HER  
TO ME.

DHUMRALOCHANA TOOK AN ARMY TO MOUNT HIMAVAT AND CONFRONTED AMBIKA.

IF YOU DON'T GO TO  
MY LORD, OF YOUR OWN  
FREE WILL, I'LL HAVE TO  
TAKE YOU TO HIM  
BY FORCE.

AMBIKA PRETENDED TO BE AFRAID.

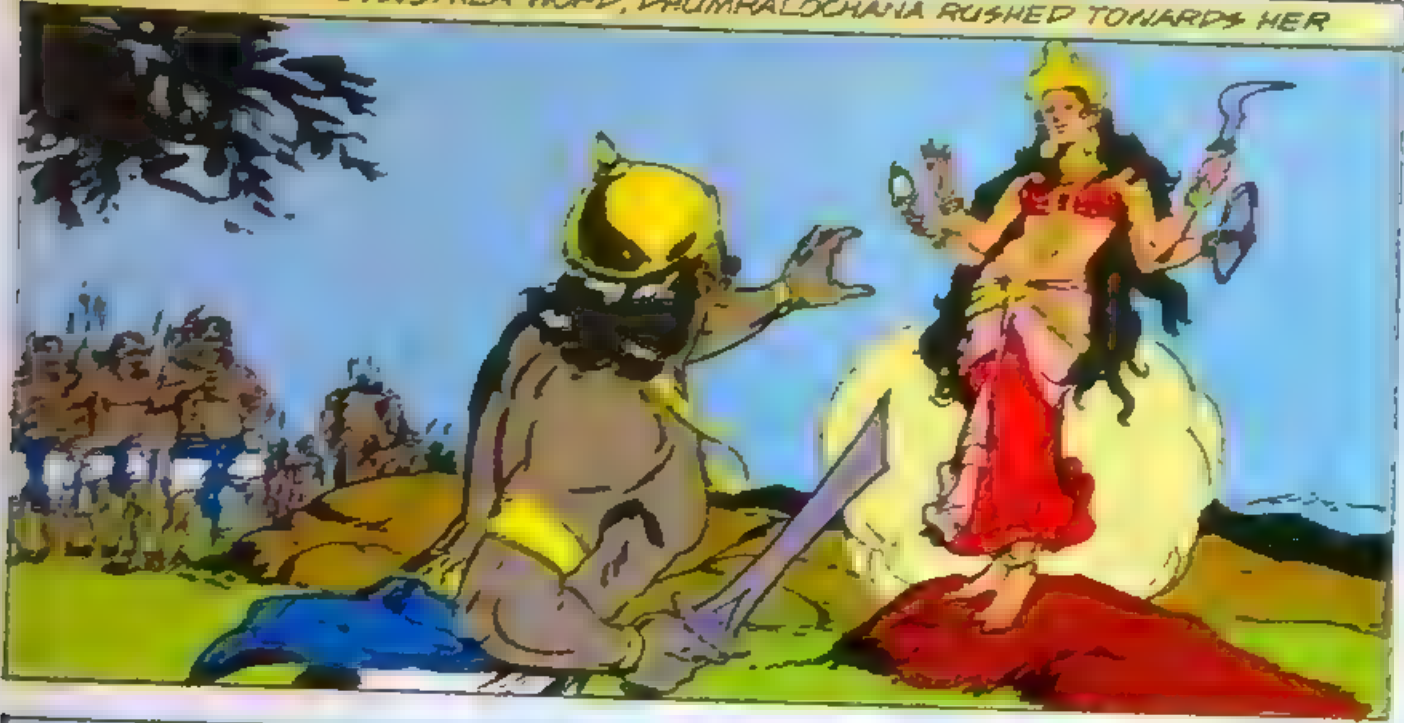
ALAS! SPARE  
ME. I AM A  
HELPLESS  
WOMAN.

THEN MARRY  
OUR LORD!

MY VOW DOES  
NOT PERMIT ME TO  
MARRY HIM WITH-  
OUT FIGHTING  
HIM.



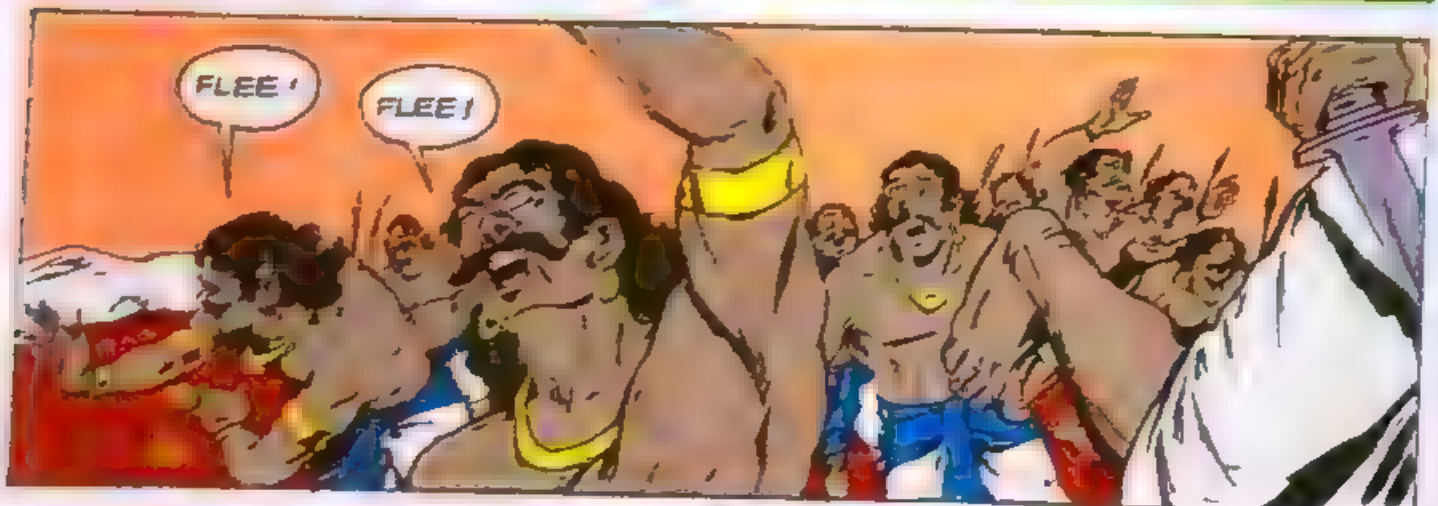
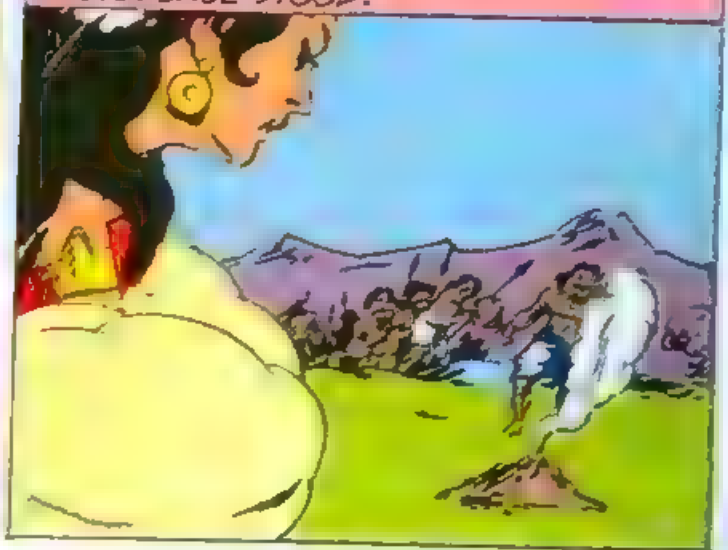
WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER WORD, DHUMRALOCHANA RUSHED TOWARDS HER



WITH UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE ASURA, AMBIKA UTTERED A SINGLE SYLLABLE.

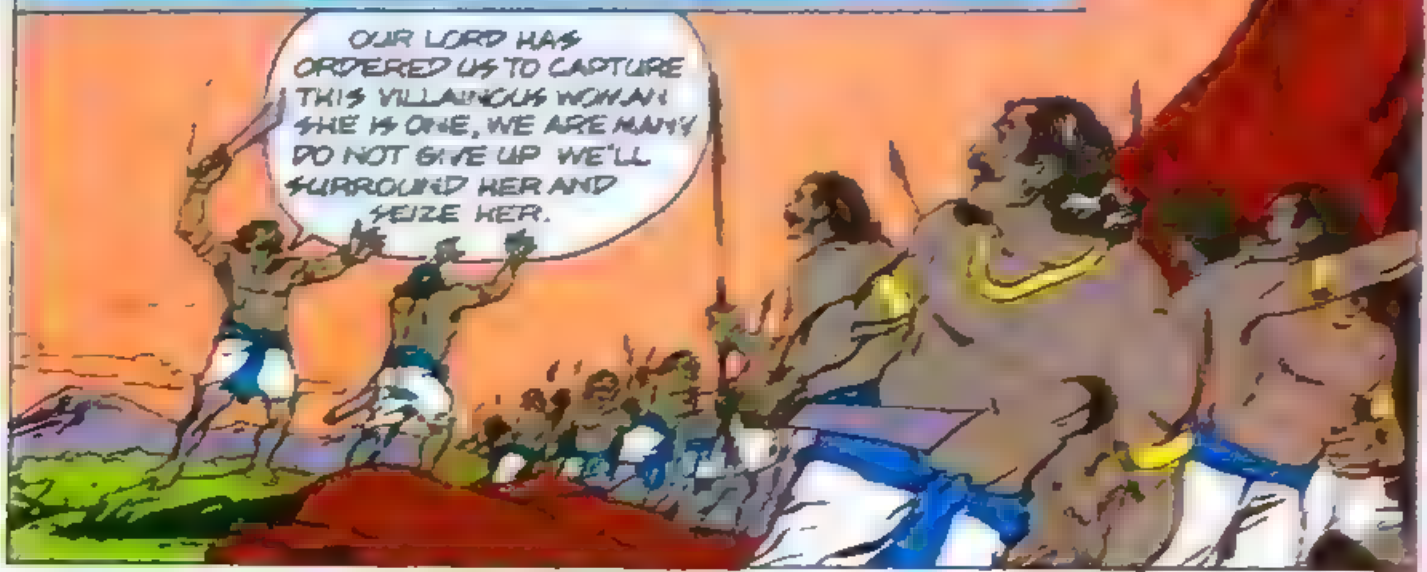


THE NEXT MOMENT, A HANDFUL OF ASHES SMOULDERED WHERE THE MIGHTY ASURA ONCE STOOD.

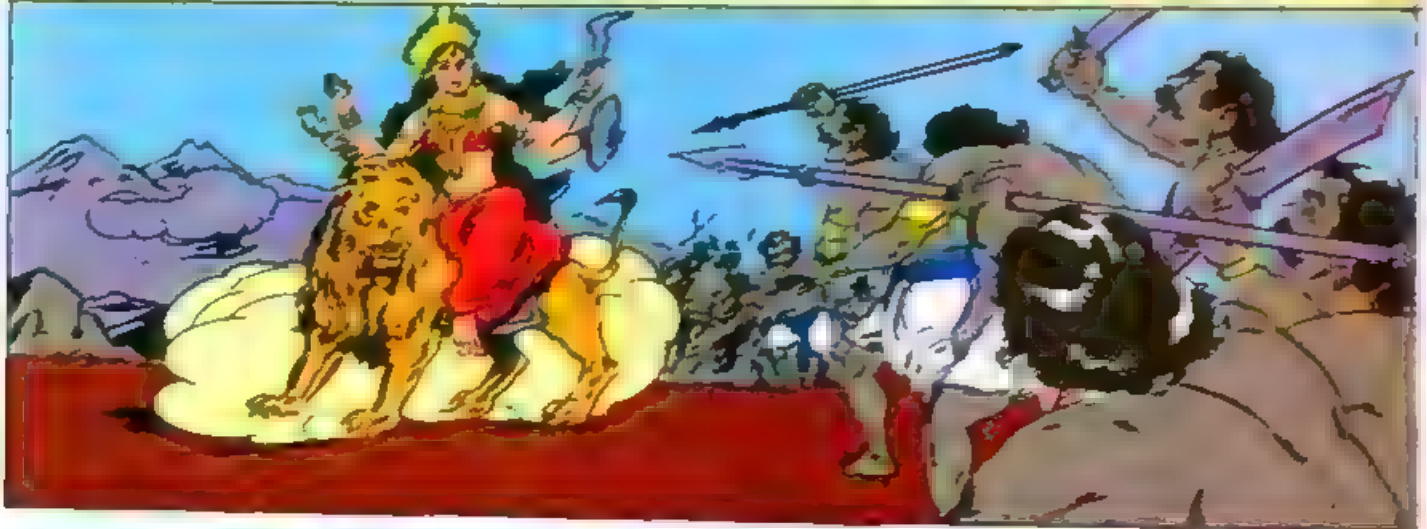




BUT CHANDRA AND MANUDA STOPPED THE RETREATING ASURAS.



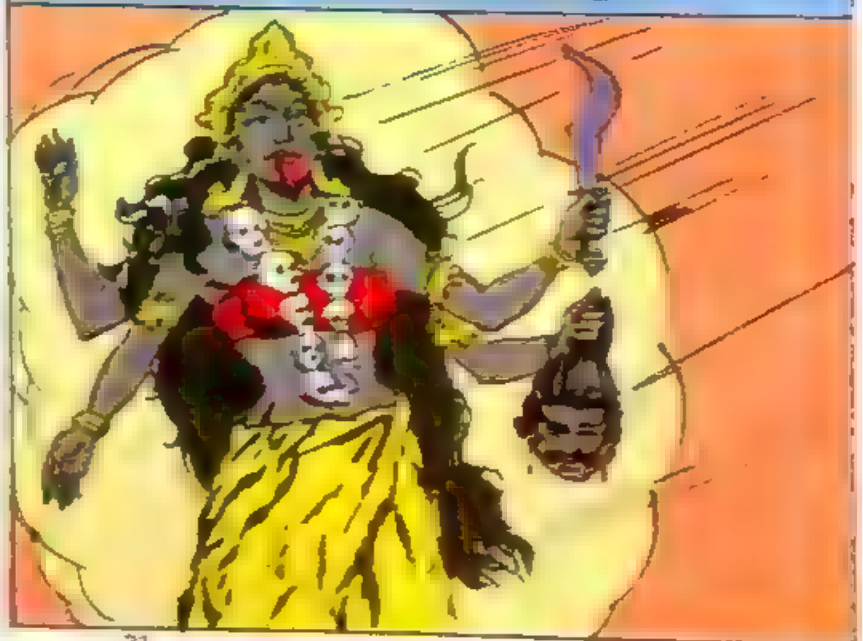
WHEN THE ASURAS CLOSED IN ON AMBIKA, WHO WAS NOW SEATED ON A LION...



...SHE FROWNED.



OUT CAME KALI\* FROM HER FOREHEAD...



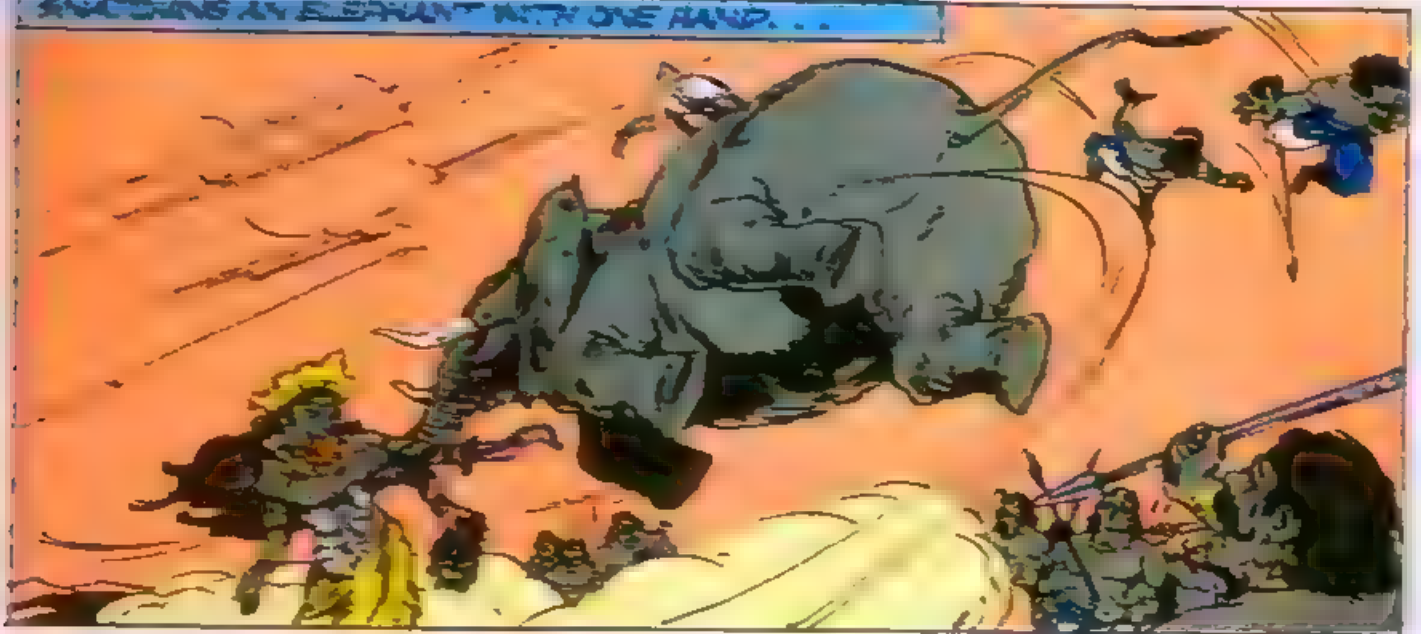
\* AN INCARNATION OF DURGA



AND CRASHED AT THE AGURAS.



SMASHING AN ELEPHANT WITH ONE HAND...



... SHE HURLED IT AT THE AGURAS AND CRUSHED THEM TO DEATH.





CHANDA RUSHED AT KALI.



I WILL  
KILL YOU  
AND PROVIDE  
A FEAST FOR  
THE VULTURES!

KALI SEIZED HIM BY THE HAIR...



...AND BEHEADED HIM.

BLIND WITH FURY, MUNDA RUSHED FORTH



... ONLY TO MEET WITH THE SAME FATE!

AMBIKA SMILED AT KALI.



YOU HAVE KILLED  
CHANDA AND MUNDA.  
HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL  
ALSO BE KNOWN AS  
CHAMUNDI.



# HOW DURGA SLEW SHUMBHA



WHEN SHUMBHA LEARNED THAT CHANDA AND MURDA HAD BEEN KILLED, HE CAME IN PERSON TO DEAL WITH AMBIKA. HIS HUGE ARMY SURROUNDED AMBIKA AND MALI.

THEN THE SHAKTIS — THE INNER FORCE OF VARIOUS BODY — ISSUED FORTH ASSURING FEMALE FORMS\*. OUT OF BRAHMA EMERGED BRAHMANI...



\* EACH OF THESE FORMS IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN INCARNATION OF DURGA



OUT OF VISHNU, VAISHNAMI.



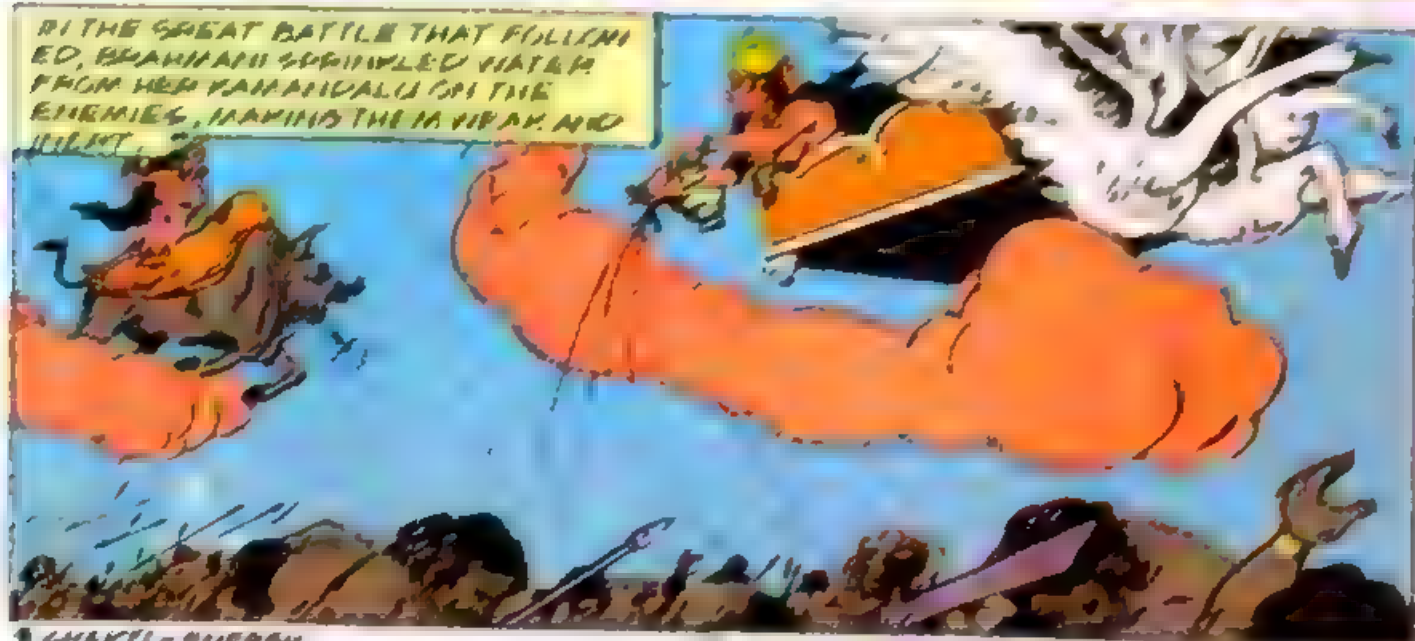
AND OUT OF MAHESHWARA MAHESHWARI.



FINALLY OUT OF AMBINA EMERGED CHANDIKA. SOON THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF SHAKTIS.



IN THE GREAT BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, BHAKHAMI SPRINKLED WATER FROM HER KAMANDALI ON THE ENEMIES, MAKING THEM BLIND AND DEAF.





VAISHNAVI FOUGHT WITH THE DISCUS, MAHESHWARI WITH THE TRIDENT, AND VARIOUS OTHER SHAKTIS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE WEAPONS. UNABLE TO FACE THIS ONSLAUGHT, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO FLEE.



IT WAS THE TERRIBLE ASURA, RAKTABEEJA.

AS RAKTABEEJA RUSHED FORTH, INDRA'S SHAKTI STRUCK HIM WITH HER THUNDERBOLT.



AS EACH DROP OF THE BLOOD FLOWING FROM HIS WOUND TOUCHED THE GROUND...

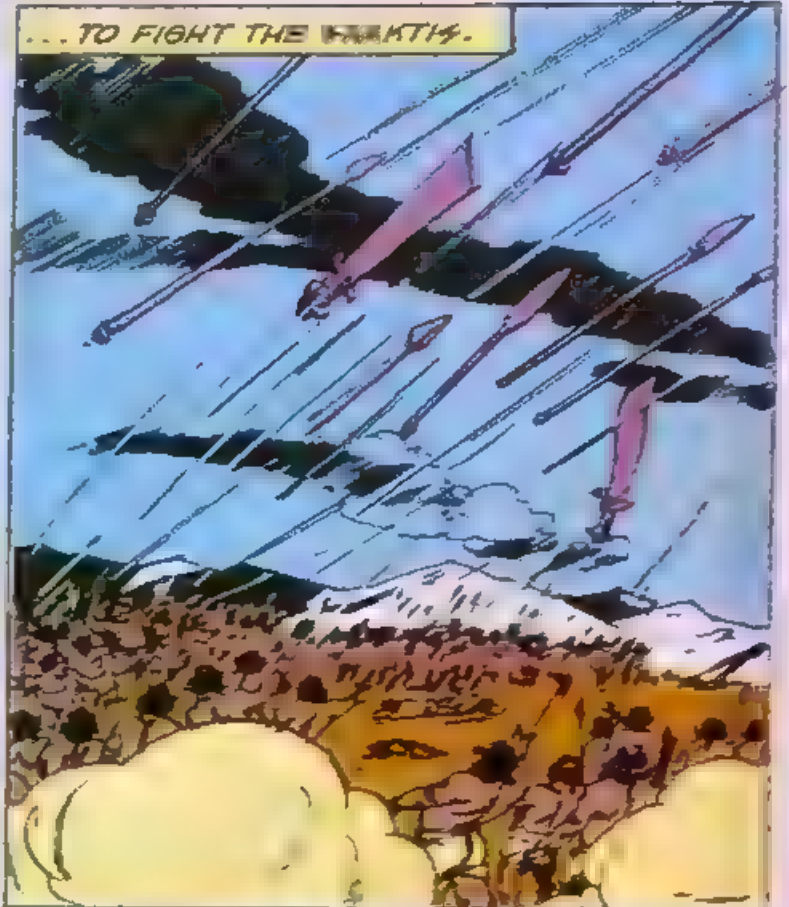




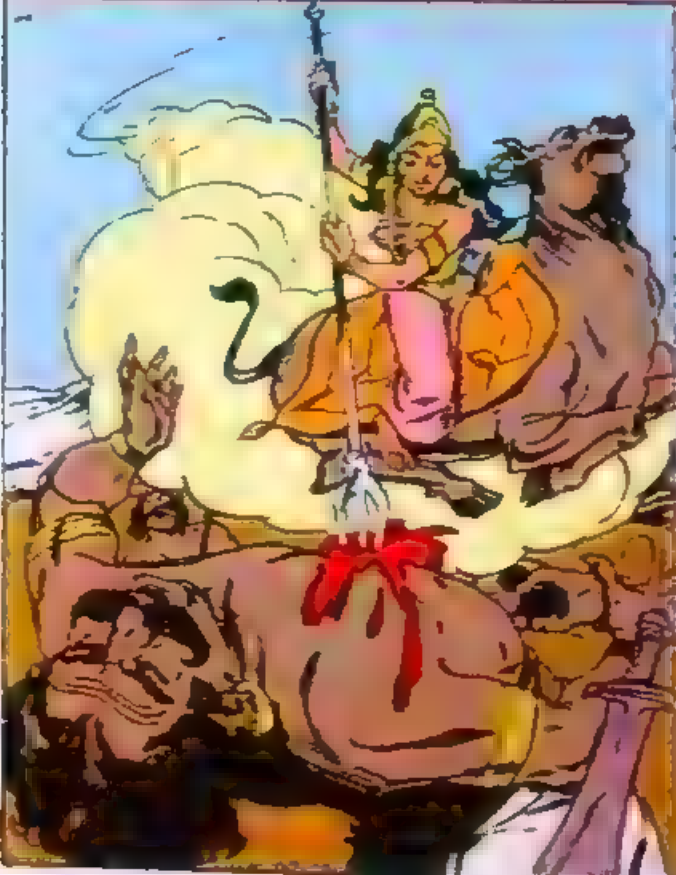
... THERE ROSE A MIGHTY ASURA,  
HIS EXACT REPLICA ...



... TO FIGHT THE SHAKTIS.



AS THE SHAKTIS WOUNDED EACH OF THE ASURAS THIS BORN, OUT OF HIS  
BLOOD ROSE MANY MORE ASURAS ...





AND SOON THE BATTLE SCENE WAS FILLED WITH THOUSANDS OF KAKIA  
BELLAS, WHO FOUGHT THE SHAKTIS.



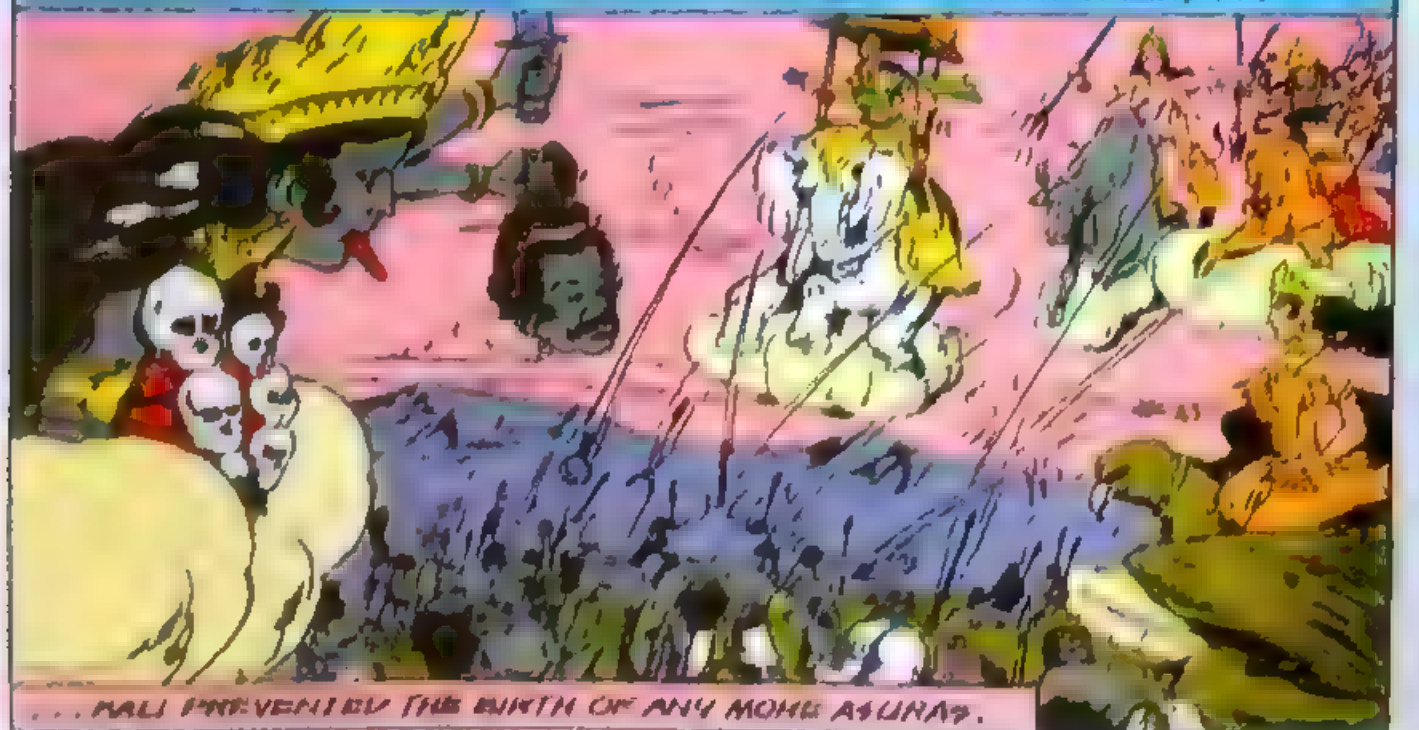
CHANDIKA TURNED TO HALI.

O CHAMBERLAIN,  
THESE KAKIA-  
BELLAS CAN BE  
ANNIHILATED ONLY  
IF WE PREVENT  
THEIR BLOOD FROM  
FALLING TO  
THE GROUND.

LEAVE IT TO  
ME. NOT A DROP  
OF THEIR BLOOD  
SHALL STAIN  
THE EARTH  
AGAIN.



AS CHANDIKA AND THE OTHER SHAKTIS ATTACKED THE KAKIABELLAS...



...HALI PREVENTED THE BIRTH OF ANY MORE ASURAS.



SIXTH THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF RAHTABEERAS THAT HAD ARISEN WERE WIRED OUT. RAHTABEERJA WAS KUNINGIS

I MUST KILL HER BEFORE SHE STRIKES THE FATAL BLOW.



AND RAHTABEERJA RUSHED TOWARD CHANDIKA.



AS CHANDIKA STRUCK HIM . . .



. . . KALI PREVENTED HIS BLOOD FROM TOUCHING THE EARTH. . .

AND RAHTABEERJA FELL DEAD, TO THE JOY OF THE DEVAS.



(VICTORY TO CHANDIKA!)







THEY TO THE AMAZEMENT OF BHUWANA, THE VARIOUS SHAKTS MERGED INTO DURGA.



SEEKING DURGA, BHUWANA RODE ON TO THE MOUNTAIN.



AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE IN THE AIR, DURGA FLUNG THE ASURA DOWN...



...AND KLEN HIM WITH HER SPEAR, RESCUING THE FEAR-HEADED BY NORA APPEARED ON THE SCENE.



WE SALUTE YOU O MOTHER DURGA, DESTROYER OF EVIL.





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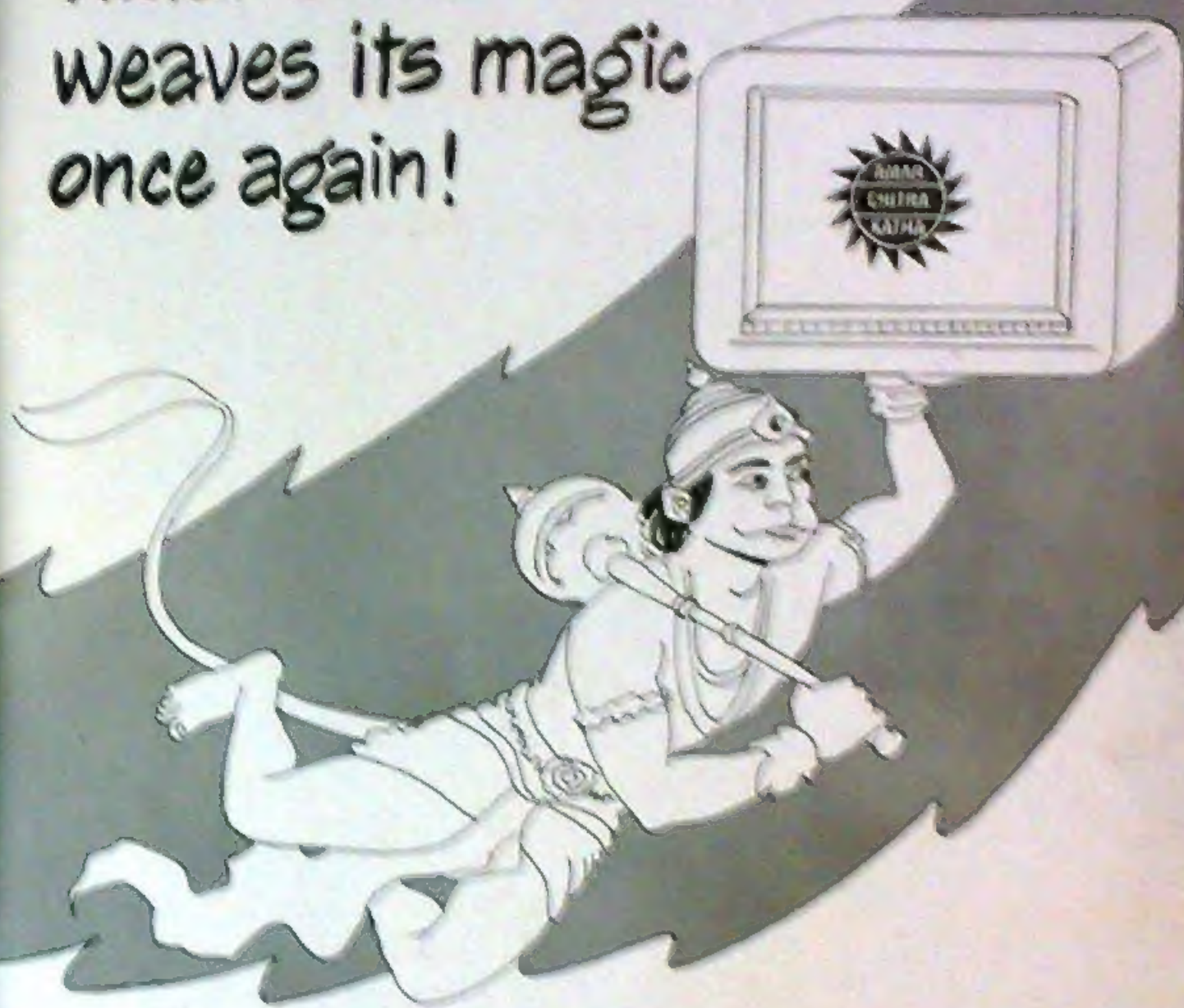
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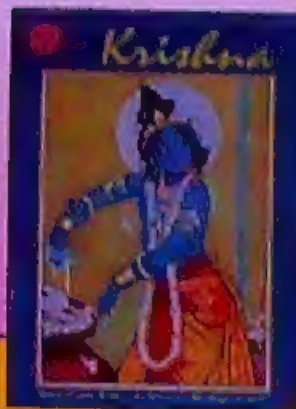
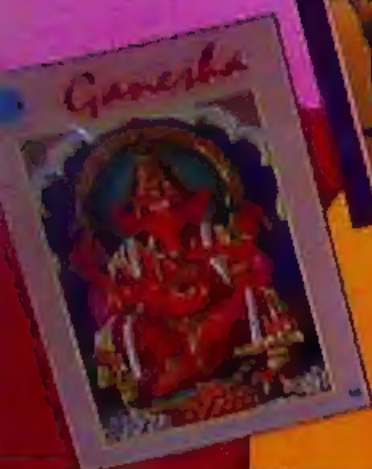
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